

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
FOR AN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
LONDON BUREAU

CONFIDENTIAL

12-31-48 (A)

16 December 1948

25X1 To: [] Chief, FBIB
From: Chief, London Bureau, FBIS
Subject: Report of Activities of London Bureau covering
Month ending 15 December 1948

51-13

1. Implementation of recently proposed plans and policies.

The new duplex radio teletype channel between London and Washington, as mentioned in the last report, has considerably eased the communications problem of this bureau. A spot check of traffic on the new channel revealed an average transmission time of one hour as against an average of three hours required for messages filed by Army Signal Corps facilities via Frankfurt. Discussions have been held frequently with officers of the Office of the Military Attache, with whom the new duplex channel is shared, and it is now anticipated that all problems dealing with the channel in London have been satisfactorily settled.

The London administrative office has been moved from the Embassy building at 1 Grosvenor Square to 5 Grosvenor Square. The latter building has been recently purchased by the Embassy to house the United States Information Service. The joint FBIS-USIS wire room will be moving to the new location as soon as necessary structural repairs to the building are completed. 25X1

25X1 The Chief, London Bureau, had several meetings during the month with [] on the question of recruitment for []. It is expected that next month's report will include some tangible results of efforts to recruit personnel in this country for the []. 25X1

The Security Officer of the Embassy reported that investigations of all locally-hired employees of this bureau had been completed and that in each instance a favorable report had been received.

25X1 The special services to the U. S. Delegation to the U. N. General Assembly meeting in Paris were terminated with the adjournment of the Session. In this connection, during the month [] Chief of the Report Section of this bureau, returned to the States on home leave and has been temporarily replaced by [] newly-arrived from Washington. 25X1

II. Accomplishments of Overall Mission including firmly established Individual Objectives.

25X1 The total traffic moved from this bureau to Washington during the month amounted to 1,175,863 words. Of this 954,663 words were originated with this office, and 221,200 words were relayed from [].

Of the total traffic 751,589 words were transmitted over the new duplex channel, 411,531 words over Army Signal Corps facilities via Frankfurt, and 12,743 words via commercial facilities. The sharp reduction in the latter figure from a total of 290,718 words in the previous month is most gratifying.

From the Report Section, 85,210 words were filed to Paris for the U. N. Delegation and the American Embassy, while 64,630 words were transmitted to regular clients in Germany.

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In addition an estimated daily average of 10,000 words of Pacific-monitored material was relayed from Washington

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III. Proposals for Improvement.

Once again the month's performance highlights the necessity for augmenting the number of editorial personnel of this bureau. The daily average file has climbed again above the 30,000 mark, largely because the editorial shortage is so acute as to preclude proper evaluation of all copy. The commitments of both editorial desk and report section are constantly increasing and, unless more editorial staff is forthcoming, the standard of performance is certain to deteriorate, if it has not already started to do so.

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